

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 NSC-10 OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 AID-20 /069 W

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P R 242359Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5011

INFO USIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 3294

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY RICHARDSON

USIA FOR ILA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, SGEN, CI

SUBJECT: REPRESENTATIONS TO ABC ON BEHALF OF CHANNEL 13

1. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT LOCAL TELEVISION PRODUCTION-DISTRIBUTION COMPANY PROTAB-PROTEL, OF WHICH AMERICAN BROADCASTING COMPANY OWNS CONTROLLING INTEREST, PLANS TO SELL OUT. LIQUIDATION WOULD INCLUDE SALE OF US\$65,000 IN OBSOLETE BUT FUNCTIONING TELEVISION EQUIPMENT.

2. CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF SANTIAGO STATION, CHANNEL 13, CURRENTLY NEGOTIATING WITH ABC NEW YORK FOR PURCHASE OF PROTAB-PROTEL. CHANNEL HAS OFFERED US\$120,000 PAYABLE OVER THREE-YEAR PERIOD WHICH APPARENTLY BOTH PARTIES CONSIDER FAIR MARKET VALUE OF ENTIRE COMPANY. CHANNEL 13 IS ONLY SOLIDLY ESTABLISHED NON-MARXIST TV CHANNEL IN SANTIAGO, PROVIDING OBJECTIVE REPORTING AND EXTENDING ITS REACH INTO PROVINCES OVER GOC RESISTANCE.

3. CHANNEL 13 REPORTS THAT UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S RECENTLY-LAUNCHED CHANNEL 6 AND YET-TO-BE-OPENED CHANNEL 11 OF COMMUNIST-DOMINATED STATE TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY ALSO BIDDING FOR COMPANY. CHANNEL 13 FEARS HIGHER OFFER BY CHANNEL 11. SUCH A MANEUVER WOULD HAVE GOC BACKING AND MIGHT OPEN THE WAY FOR THAT NEW
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STATION TO EXPAND AND UPGRADE ITS MODEST OPERATION TO ONE OF

MAJOR INFLUENCE. MARXIST-RUN STATE-OWNED NETWORK (CHANNEL 7)
ALREADY HAS NATIONWIDE REACH.

4. CHANNEL 13 BUSINESS MANAGER OMAR PABST, PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED
BY OTHER STATION REPRESENTATIVE, PLANS TO MEET WITH ABC IN
YORK JULY 26 OR 27 TO DISCUSS OFFER AND TERMS OF SALE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: IF YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO DO SO, I
WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD CONTACT ABC NEW YORK AND
EXPLAIN POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE. WE BELIEVE CHANNEL 13
IS BEST BET FOR MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHENING DEMOCRATIC VOICE IN
CHILEAN TV, ALTHOUGH UNIVERSITY OF CHILE'S CHANNEL 6 IS ALSO
STRUGGLING TO ESTABLISH DEMOCRATIC, NON-MARXIST VOICE IN SANTIAGO.
SALE TO CHANNEL 11 WOULD PUT THE EQUIPMENT IN COMMUNIST HANDS.
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Draft Date: 24 JUL 1973
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: GS DAVIS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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